



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 7

Lynn Pearl Button Company Records, 1892-1896: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Lynn Pearl Button Company

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 7

Extent: 4 boxes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Lynn Pearl Button Company records.
State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

Provenance: Massachusetts Archives, 1981.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Kathryn Gabriel, January 1985. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the administrative activities of the Lynn Pearl Button Company, a company which manufactured buttons and jewelry from 1892 to 1895.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The material in this collection includes the administrative records and financial papers of the Lynn Pearl Button Company from September 1892 to March 1895. The materials have been arranged into three series: Administration, Business and Finance. Series I: Administration contains two volumes of directors' and stockholders' meetings held from September 16, 1892 to October 1, 1894. Series II: Business includes two Pearl Button Company business ledger volumes: an order book labeled "No. 2" and a merchandise sales record. Carbons of business correspondence are bound inside a third volume. Series III: Finance is a collection of

miscellaneous financial documents, including an Atlas National Bank of Boston checkbook, balance and cash/payments receipt volumes, and financial statements belonging to an October 1893 firm inventory.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Lynn Pearl Button Company was founded in September, 1892, and was in business between 1892 and 1895. The Company manufactured and sold buttons, jewelry and other articles made from mussel shells, leather, ivory, bone, wood, and metals. Items were manufactured in a factory located at 62 Munroe Street, Lynn, Massachusetts. The firm's business office was located in what was then the Lynn First National Bank Building, 25 Exchange Street, Room 5.

The stockholders' minutes (included in Series I) state that an Agreement of Association was established with capital stock at one thousand dollars; one hundred shares were par valued at one hundred dollars each. James Meech, John D. Adams, Edward Bancroft, Warren Frasier, James Felton, W.E. Symmonds, and Charles Wood were elected directors of the firm; Adams was voted President, Felton was voted Secretary, and Meech was voted Treasurer.

One year later, in October 1893, an inventory (item 11, box 4) revealed the company's annual sales were \$26,079.04 with a net loss of \$650.00. By January of 1895, the cost of mussel shell was higher than the retail price of buttons and other materials. The Massachusetts Reformatory, having made an earlier contract with the firm, took over the Lynn company when it closed in February 1895.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series as follows:

Series I: Administration

Series II: Business

Series III: Finance

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials were transferred from the Massachusetts Archives in 1981.

Detailed Series Description and Container List

Series I: Administration, 1892-1894.

Scope and Content

This series contains two volumes of directors' and stockholders' minutes from meetings held from September 16, 1892 to October 1, 1894.

Box #	Item	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Stockholders' Meeting Records (22 pages)	9/16/1892-10/1/1894
1	2	Directors' Meeting Records (11 pages)	9/16/1892-10/1/1894

Series II: Business, 1892-1895.

Scope and Content

This series includes two Pearl Button Company business ledger volumes: an order book labeled "No. 2" and a merchandise sales record. Carbons of business correspondence are bound inside a third volume.

Box #	Item	Folder Title	Date
2	3	Business Correspondence, Index (383 pages)	10/21/1893-3/13/1895
2	4	Order Book No. 2, Index (177 pages)	5/16/1894-8/1/1894
2	5	Merchandise Sales Records (165 pages)	10/1892-3/5/1895
3	6	Company Ledger A	10/1892-12/1893
3	7	Company Ledger B	1/1894-3/1895

Series III: Finance, 1892-1896.

Scope and Content

This series is a collection of miscellaneous financial documents, including an Atlas National Bank of Boston checkbook, balance and cash/payments receipt volumes, and financial statements belonging to an October 1893 firm inventory.

Box #	Item	Folder Title	Date
4	8	Checkbook, Atlas National Bank of Boston	10/1892-3/1895
4	9	Company Balance Book (M) (39 pages)	10/1892-2/1895
4	10	Cash Payments/Receipts (103 pages, pages 3-18 missing)	10/1892-1/1896
4	11	Loose financial statements, Inventory	October 1893